

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03545 311803Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 /061 W
-----311808Z 008410 /47

O R 311740Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4523
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3545
FOR AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE FOR BODINE S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB EC
SUBJ: GOE MOVES TO DISSOLVE TEACHERS' FEDERATION

REF: QUITO 3446

1. CARRYING THROUGH ON ITS EARLIER THREATS, THE GOE DISSOLVED UNE, THE NATIONAL TEACHERS FEDERATION ON MAY 30. IN ECUADOR'S LEGAL SYSTEM THE GOE'S ACTION MEANS THAT UNE LOSES ITS CORPORATE PERSONALITY AND ALL THE ORGANIZATION'S RESOURCES ARE CONFISCATED BY THE STATE. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO THREATENED TO DISMISS ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WHO CONTINUED THE TWO WEEK STRIKE WHICH HAS CLOSED DOWN THE NATION'S PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE GOE HAS HELD OUT NO HOPE THAT ITS ACTION CAN BE REVERSED, SEVERAL UNIVERSITY RECTORS HAVE FORMED A GROUP WHICH THEY HOPE CAN MEDIATE A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE TEACHERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. UNE'S LEADERS HAVE PLEDGED CONTINUING RESISTANCE SAYING THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION CANNOT BE TERMINATED BY A DECREE.

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION HAS RESULTED IN SEVERAL SMALL
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BUT NOISY DEMONSTRATIONS BY STRIKING TEACHERS WHO WERE PROMPTLY ARRESTED. THE GOE HAS ALSO ORDERED THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF UNE LEADERS AND SEVERAL ARE ALREADY BEING HELD.

4. COMMENT. THE GOE'S ACTION AGAINST THE TEACHERS IS UNPRECEDENTED AND IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE GOE HARD-LINE

AGAINST LABOR REPORTED REFTTEL. FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THE MAY 18 GENERAL STRIKE THE GOE APPARENTLY FEELS VERY STRONG IN ITS POSITION VIS A VIS LABOR. WHILE STRONG ACTION WILL PROBABLY BREAK THE BACK OF THE STRIKE, THE GOE WILL PAY THE PRICE IN CREATING INCREASED LABOR OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. ATTHOUGH THE THREE NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS, VITIATED A STILL REELING FROM THEIR RECENT ATTEMPT AT A NATIONAL STRIKE, ARE UNLIKELY TO AMOUNT MUCH OF CHALLENGE TO THE GOE IN THE SHORT-RUN, THE INCREASING ALIENATION OF LABOR WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE LONGER-RANGE EFFECTS ON SOCIAL UNREST.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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